

What is claimed is:

1. A resin composition comprising a silicone resin containing a reinforcing amount of a particulate kaolin filler, said particulate kaolin filler having been  
5 pretreated so as to contain greater than 1.0 wt. % up to 12.0 wt. % of an amino- or vinyl-functionalized organosilane or organosiloxane.
2. The resin composition of claim 1 wherein said particulate kaolin filler has been pretreated so as to contain 1.1 to 12 wt. % of said organosilane or  
10 organosiloxane.
3. The resin composition of claim 1 wherein said particulate kaolin filler has been pretreated so as to contain 1.2 to 12 wt. % of said organosilane or organosiloxane.  
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4. The resin composition of claim 1 wherein said particulate kaolin filler is calcined.
5. The resin composition of claim 1 wherein said particulate kaolin filler has an  
20 average particle size of less than 10 microns.
6. The resin composition of claim 1 wherein said particulate kaolin filler has an average particle size ranging from 0.75 to 2.0 microns.

7. The resin composition of claim 1 comprising at least 30 parts by weight of said pretreated particulate kaolin filler per 100 parts of said silicone resin.
8. The resin composition of claim 1 containing at least 40 parts by weight of said pretreated kaolin filler to 100 parts by weight of said silicone resin.
9. The resin composition of claim 1 containing at least 60 parts by weight of said pretreated particulate kaolin filler per 100 parts of said silicone resin.
10. 10. The resin composition of claim 1 containing up to 200 parts by weight of said pretreated particulate kaolin filler per 100 parts by weight of said silicone resin.
11. 11. The resin composition of claim 1 wherein said silicone resin has a molecular weight such that the silicone ranges from a silicone oil to a silicone elastomer.
12. 12. The resin composition of claim 11 wherein said silicone resin is a silicone elastomer.
13. 13. The resin composition of claim 12 wherein said silicone elastomer is formed by vulcanizing at elevated temperatures.
14. 14. The resin composition of claim 12 wherein said silicone elastomer is formed by vulcanization at ambient temperature.

15. The resin composition of claim 1 further including a pigment in addition to said pretreated particulate kaolin filler.
- 5 16. The resin composition of claim 1 being devoid of a silica filler.
17. The resin composition of claim 12 wherein said composition is devoid of a silica filler.
- 10 18. The resin composition of claim 1 wherein said kaolin is pretreated with an organosilane (i) of formula  $R^1_a SiX_{4-a}$ , wherein each  $R^1$  is independently selected from hydrogen and hydrocarbon radicals having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, at least one  $R^1$  is an amino- or vinyl-substituted hydrocarbon radical, and X is independently selected from halogen and alkoxy radicals having 1-  
15 12 carbon atoms, or an organosiloxane (ii) comprising units of formula  $R^2_n SiO_{(4-n)/2}$ , wherein each  $R^2$  is independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, and hydrocarbon radicals having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, at least one of the  $R^2$  substituents is an amino- or vinyl-substituted hydrocarbon radical.
- 20 19. The resin composition of claim 1 wherein said pretreated kaolin filler contains an aminoalkylsilane.
20. The resin composition of claim 19 wherein said pretreated kaolin filler contains about 1.24 wt. % of said aminoalkylsilane.

21. The resin composition of claim 20 wherein said aminoalkylsilane is aminopropyltriethoxysilane.
22. A method of improving the heat stability and physical properties of a silicone resin comprising mixing with the silicone resin a reinforcing amount of a particulate aluminum silicate filler, said particulate filler having been pretreated prior to mixing with said silicone resin so as to contain at least 1.10 wt.% up to 12.0 wt. % of an amino- or vinyl-functionalized organosilane or organosiloxane.
23. The method of claim 22 wherein said particulate aluminum silicate filler is kaolin.
24. The method of claim 23 wherein said kaolin is calcined.
25. The method of claim 23 wherein said pretreated particulate kaolin filler is present in amounts of at least 30 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said silicone resin.
26. The method of claim 22 wherein said silicone resin is devoid of a silica filler.